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In the wake of a botched terrorist attack on Christmas Day, U.S. Rep. Bruce Braley (D) plans to introduce legislation that could lead to full-body scanning and canine explosives detection teams at airports.

In a conference call with reporters Wednesday, the Waterloo Democrat said there is significant room for improvement in the use of explosives detection technology for passenger screening, especially at foreign airports.

"I believe it's important we enhance our efforts to increase airport security and at the same time make sure we're not violating rights of American citizens," Braley said.

The proposal, called Protect the Lives of Americans through Enhanced Screening Act, would require Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano to submit a plan to Congress to rapidly increase and enhance the use of explosives detection technology for screening cargo, passenger baggage and passengers for all domestic flights and international flights bound for the U.S.

The legislation would also require Napolitano to submit a proposal that would allow Congress to ensure that the new policies are being rapidly deployed in a manner on international flights bound for the U.S. that are at least as strong as what's being used for domestic flights.

"I think these recommendations are common sense and over due and will make our skies safer," he said.

Braley made the announcement after a briefing from top officials about progress into the investigation of Northwest Flight 253 from Amsterdam to Detroit.

Passengers and crew averted potential disaster when they overpowered Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab, a 23-year-old Nigerian, after explosives allegedly stitched into his underwear failed to detonate aboard the aircraft carrying nearly 300 people.

Abdulmutallab was able to get by security because of a communication breakdown between government agencies and the scanners didn't detect the bomb.

Full-body scanners, which can peer through clothes to create three-dimensional images of passengers to reveal any concealed weapons or explosives, has sparked some controversy from people who argue it violates their privacy.

In April, Republicans submitted legislation that would limit the use of the full-body scanners.

Braley said nothing would happen on the bill before eight upcoming hearings concerning airport security were completed.

The House will return to work next week and the Senate will begin its new session a week later.